

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Published Since 1877

Sunday School Board pays tribute to Herschel Hobbs

Frank Wm. White

NASHVILLE (BP) — Herschel H. Hobbs is a man of many words.

The 11,088 pages of Bible study commentary he has written in more than two decades attest to that.

Hobbs has completed 84 quarterly issues with 1,092 lessons as writer of Studying Adult Life and Work Lessons, a quarterly Sunday School lesson commentary in the Life and Work Series published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday School division.

That work alone makes him perhaps the most widely published writer of Sunday School Board material. But the well-known Southern Baptist statesman also has written more than 124 books and other materials.

The board will pay tribute to Hobbs with the July-August-September issue of Studying Adult Life and Work Lessons.

That issue completes 21 consecutive years of the commentary with Hobbs as its only writer.

The board also is noting Hobbs' 60 years as a minister and his 82nd birthday.

In addition to the commemorative issue of Hobbs' commentary, the story of the June issue of Adult Leadership magazine is a tribute to Hobbs by Editor Richard Dodge.

In a separate tribute, retired Sunday School Board President James L.

Sullivan recounts how he selected his former seminary classmate to begin writing the commentary.

As pastor of First Church, Oklahoma City, Hobbs already had been preparing mimeographed materials for his own Sunday School teachers.

Many people from other churches were requesting copies of the material.

Hobbs said he thought perhaps 25 to

50 churches would want copies of his commentary. "It wound up we were mailing the notes out to about 250 churches every week," he said.

The Sunday School Board publication of the commentary began with the October-November-December 1968 edition. Sales now are approaching 100,000 copies per quarter.

Hobbs is "an unselfish pastor who gave up his own idea so he could have a larger ministry" through the Sunday School Board, said President Lloyd Elder.

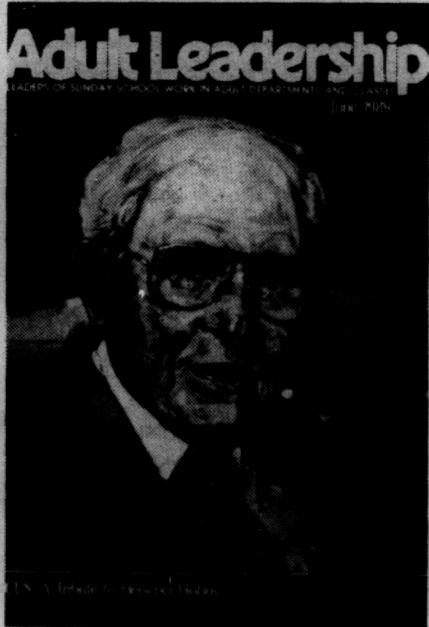
In the Adult Leadership feature, Hobbs says Southern Baptists must "get back to those rockribbed basics. They work."

Hobbs told Dodge he never has been pessimistic about the Southern Baptist Convention. Commenting on the 10-year controversy in the SBC, Hobbs said, "We're going to come out of this thing better than we were when we went in."

Hobbs, who chaired the committee that wrote the Baptist Faith and Message statement adopted by the SBC in 1963, also was a member of the SBC Peace Committee that reviewed the convention controversy.

Hobbs has no plans to retire from the ministry and has speaking engagements scheduled through 1990, Dodge reported.

White writes for the Sunday School Board.



"Families practicing God's love"

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. — "Families Practicing God's Love" is the theme of the 1989 Christian Home Emphasis, which many churches will observe during the six weeks between Mother's Day and Father's Day. Paul Plummer, a teacher of four year olds at Brentwood (Tenn.) Baptist Church, talks with Emmy Duncan (center) and Caryn Caldwell in the home living area of the Sunday school class as the girls learn about bathing a baby. Christian Home Emphasis is sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's family ministry department. — Photo by Jim Veneman.

Gaza missionaries emphasize "call of love"

By Mark Wingfield

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP) — Missionaries Carl and Penny Allen say their Southern Baptist co-workers in Gaza have gone above the call of duty to fulfill Christ's call of love.

The Allens, medical missionaries to Gaza appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, are furloughing in Albuquerque, N.M. "Every one of the missionaries in Gaza has gone above the call of duty," says Mrs. Allen, a medical technologist. "They're living at the edge of that challenge of Jesus' call of love."

Southern Baptists in Gaza work through the Baptist School of Allied Health Sciences, Gaza Baptist Church and the Center of Culture and Light, a lending library. Their work is done against a backdrop of rock-throwing, bombings and deaths stemming from the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

"The situation is so difficult and so stressful that without the hand of the Lord, it would not be possible for missionaries to live there," Mrs. Allen says.

The Allens brought back a small rock, about one inch by one-half inch, with "Gaza 5-19-88" written in black ink on it. It was propelled toward their car by a Palestinian youth's slingshot.

It is one of dozens of rocks thrown at the Allens' car and house. Rock-throwing is common in Gaza, they say. Yet neither the Allens nor any other Southern Baptist missionaries have been injured by rocks.

During labor strikes and military-enforced

curfews, missionaries often remain in their homes for days at a time, they say. During the last 18 months before furlough, the Allens estimate, they stayed indoors for the equivalent of three months.

Frustration such events create finds no outlet, Allen, a nurse, says: "There's no complaint department in Gaza. There's no one you can go scream and shake your fist at. The enemy is faceless."

"Our missionaries struggle and they hurt and they cry and they sometimes wonder what they're doing there," Mrs. Allen says. "We struggled every day."

Cards and letters from Christians in the United States kept them going, she says: "I know beyond the shadow of a doubt that the prayers of Southern Baptists make it possible for missionaries to be there."

"We often have a misconception that missionaries are spiritual giants. But it's not the missionaries that are special; it's God that's special."

Living under these conditions "drives you to the Lord," she says. "You must depend on him every day for everything."

"There was an abiding assurance daily that I was where God wanted me to be. The work God has done in Penny Allen is incredible, life-changing."

Despite the difficult situation, missionaries must work in Gaza, she notes: "Without Christians there, Gaza would be in utter darkness. But as long as there are Christians there, there is a glimmer of hope."

"I may never see it with my own eyes, but I believe things are different there because of the missionaries who have gone. Wherever Christians have walked, Jesus has walked."

"We often have a misconception that missionaries are spiritual giants. But it's not the missionaries that are special; it's God that's special."

The Allens admit they sometimes got depressed or angry when they received newsletters from other missionaries reporting hundreds of professions of faith. "We see very little results of anything we do," Allen explains.

Allen says he was able to formally disciple only one person and that lasted just one month, until the man's family discovered he was going to the house of a Christian.

But beyond that, the Baptist missionaries influence the medical students and patients through their lifestyle, he says, noting, "Lifestyle is our strongest witness there."

This influence is illustrated in a series of events that happened at the medical complex, Mrs. Allen points out.

One of the missionaries had used Valentine's Day as a means to teach the medical students about love. Although Valentine's Day isn't observed in the Middle East, the students got so excited they made Valentines with verses from 1 Corinthians 13 and hung them all over the hospital, she recounts.

Soon afterward, a man accused of being a spy

was beaten and cut up and thrown over the 15-foot wall of the hospital compound, left for dead.

Because of a tremendous hatred for spies and intense fear of being seen as a spy-supporter, none of the students wanted to go near the man, even though he was gasping for life.

Finally, some of the missionaries got a gurney, put the man on it and wheeled him into the hospital. Students stood awestruck, begging the missionaries not to help a man they considered a traitor, she says.

The missionary who had taught the lesson on Valentine's Day quickly drew a parallel between the love of 1 Corinthians 13 and the situation. "I do not like what this man has done. I detest what this man has done," the missionary said. "But we must help him because God loves this man."

With that lesson, the injured man was stabilized at the hospital and sent elsewhere for further treatment.

Career missionaries and volunteers are the key to keeping the Gaza ministry going, the Allens say. Currently, needs exist for a general evangelist, a teacher of missionary children, and clinical, medical-surgical, and obstetric nurse educators.

"Just because Gaza is in turmoil doesn't mean God can't call people there," Mrs. Allen says. "Living in Gaza, even though it is difficult, is far better than living somewhere else in disobedience to God."

Mark Wingfield writes for the BP Atlanta bureau.

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

June's emphases

June launches three major times of emphasis among Mississippi Baptists. Two of those emphases are nationwide. One is for Mississippi only.

It is the Mississippi emphasis that we are most directly related to, for it is Baptist Record Day in the churches on June 4.

Baptist Record

The Baptist Record has been in operation for 112 years, and it goes into homes all across the state and throughout the nation every week, but not very much is ever said about it by way of promotion. This is the time to ask that pastors throughout the state take a moment in their services on June 4 to point out the ministry of the Baptist Record.

This is also a good time to call attention to the fact that all of the association offices have video tapes of the Baptist Record ministry, and they are available for loan free of charge. The tapes promote readership and point out that the Baptist Record is especially tuned to reporting what is going on in local churches all across the state. It is about 16 minutes in length, so it can be viewed in a very comfortable time frame.

The Baptist Record's ministry is one of information. Baptists are a democratic people, and they must have information in order to make decisions. The Baptist Record also

provides information concerning the work of the denomination in order that members of churches may participate and strengthen the work of the churches.

The Baptist Record has maintained a record of the trauma among Southern Baptists, not because it was a desirable thing to do but because it had to be done. Information concerning Southern Baptists cannot reasonably be hidden from Southern Baptists. It is not a pleasant concept always, but it is a necessary operational concern.

In addition to those matters of information we have a very popular column by Anne McWilliams, a 35-year employee of the paper, in which she provides homey information about Mississippians and others of interest, we have three Sunday School lesson commentaries each week, we provide readers a forum through letters to the editor, and we have a weekly devotional column. It is a lot of material for less than 15 cents per week and is one of the real bargains left in the world. The best way to get all of this material out to all of the members of the churches is for the churches to put the Baptist Record in the budget. It is only 45 cents per week per resident family and keeps them well informed.

The front page is available also for those churches so desiring to put their

news and information in the same publication that has all of the other material.

Religious Liberty

June 4 is also Religious Liberty Sunday, and that is a subject dear to the heart of every Baptist. This emphasis is promoted in Mississippi by the Christian Action Commission and across the nation by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Baptists were in the forefront of the fight to obtain religious liberty in our nation. The United States has maintained that banner throughout our history, and now it is becoming a reality in many countries where it was not a possibility in years past.

We have religious liberty. We must guard it diligently. John Curran said "The condition upon which God hath given liberty is eternal vigilance." Religious liberty is always being threatened by those who have self-serving interests. They will never give up. We must continue our watchfulness.

Annuity Board

And the month of June is Annuity Board Month across the Southern Baptist Convention. The marvelous ministry of this board is to provide the vehicle whereby churches and their ministers are able to provide for those ministers in retirement years. In this sense, the term "minister" would

refer to everyone who works in a church or denominational setting, for the Annuity Board handles the retirement programs of all.

Those who are not involved should find a way to become involved. Churches should insist upon this involvement for their pastors. It is the finest way to know that when a per-

son reaches retirement time there will continue to be a future that has already been provided.

And the Annuity Board is continuing to care for those who were not fortunate enough to have such a provision through means of endowments.

It is a needed ministry that is filling that need admirably.

Guest opinion . . .

The anatomy of a successful county-wide crusade

By Gus Merritt

God's hand in the Newton County Evangelistic Crusade was evident from the very beginning. The seed was first sown about eight years ago when Dr. Charles Melton, director of missions, shared his desire for a county-wide crusade. At that time, I was the director of evangelism for the association. Dr. Melton's inspiration, leadership, and encouragement was a motivating force which kept the crusade alive.

Approximately three years ago the pastors and Dr. Melton began planning in earnest. The pastors were invited to Clarke-Venable Baptist Church, Decatur, for a meeting to discuss plans for the crusade. Those pastors present were asked to write down the names of five men they would like to have conduct the crusade. When the lists were completed, Dr. Fred Wolfe's name was at the top of the lists with one exception. One list had his name second. We were convinced he was God's man! He is pastor of the Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Alabama, where he has been pastor for 17 years.

The confirmation of God's leadership came when Dr. Wolfe was asked to come and lead the crusade for the dates of April 30 through May 5, 1989. Dr. Wolfe came to meet with the

pastors twice before the crusade. The steering committee was selected consisting of 12 people. I was asked to serve as chairman. Serving along with me were pastors and lay-people. They were as follows: Wayne Campbell, Ed Knox, Jimmy McDill, Terrell Suggs, Jack Bynum, Paul Sizemore, Clinton Russell, Frank Harmon, Randy Cuchens, Carolyn Gordy, and Kenneth Chaney. There was never a better spirit of cooperation and excitement as we met and planned the crusade.

The place for the crusade was obtained at East Central Community College in Decatur. Dr. Eddie Smith, president of East Central, was most cooperative. The football stadium was the primary meeting place with the Huff Auditorium as the alternate meeting place in the event of rain. Decatur is the most central location in the county. The stadium seats about 3,000 and the Huff Auditorium seats just over 1,000.

The rally night was scheduled for Monday night, February 13, at 7 p.m. We knew for sure at the time God was going to bless in a special way. Approximately 550 people were in attendance in the Huff Auditorium. The participating churches were greatly encouraged, and all the money need-

ed for the total expenses of the crusade was met. No offerings were taken during the week of the crusade! This was the desire of the evangelists and the steering committee.

Under the preaching of Dr. Wolfe and the music leadership of Brother Ed Keyes, minister of music, Cottage Hill Baptist Church, souls were saved each night and many other commitments made. There was a total of 139 decisions made. Seventy-six of these were by profession of faith and baptism. Many of these have already united with the local church. The attendance averaged 2,000 each night. The lowest attendance was on Thursday night. We met that night in Huff Auditorium because of rain. There were approximately 900 in attendance. The highest attendance was on Friday night with approximately 2,500. Sheldon Gooch shared his testimony and sang two specials. This was the night of the most decisions.

The real success of the crusade was the unified prevailing prayers of the churches and leaders.

Personally, I would encourage more associations to make use of the county-wide crusade.

Gus Merritt is pastor of Clarke Venable Church, Decatur.

Baptist Beliefs . . .

Security of the Believer (III)

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." — John 3:16

Having looked at the negative aspect of the matter, let us examine the positive side. Little needs to be said about John 3:16. For reading it says it all. Suffice it to note "everlasting life" or "age-abiding life." If it does not last forever it is not everlasting. This is not a life received at death to last in eternity. It is a quality of life the believer receives here and now and which abides in eternity.

Read John 5:24. With the exception of "is passed," all other verbs in this verse are present tenses. "Shall come" is a present tense with a future effect.

Now read John 10:28-29. "Shall never perish" has a strong double negative (ou me), "most certainly will not perish." "Perish" (apolontai) is akin to "Apollyon," one name for the devil. "Pluck" means "snatch." No one (man, thing, or devil) shall be able to snatch the believer from the

hand of either the Son or the Father.

Read Ephesians 2:8-10. Your salvation does not depend upon what you do, but upon what God in Christ has already done for you. The dual use of "of" (ex) denotes source. In both uses it is preceded by the strong negative ouk. Most certainly the source of your salvation is not yourself or your works. Good works are the fruit, not the root. It is God's gift. "Grace" (charis, v. 8) means a gift. God's grace flows into your life through the channel of your faith. "Are ye saved" means you are saved by another, God. "Saved" is a perfect tense expressing a finished work. So the permanence of your salvation depends upon what God in Christ has already done for you.

Colossians 3:2 reads, literally, "For ye died, and your salvation life is hid with Christ in God." "Is hid" has in it the idea of a lock. Once you believe in Christ, your soul is protected by a double lock. One is "with Christ." The other is "in God." And no hellish burglar can break that combination!

Herschel Hobbs is pastor emeritus of First Church, Oklahoma City.

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Carlin takes associate BSU position at Ole Miss

Scott Carlin is the new associate Baptist Student Union director at Ole Miss, beginning June 15.



Carlin

An employee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Carlin will work for Keith Cating, BSU director at the Oxford school. He comes to Mississippi from Dallas where he was BSU director of Mountain View College while a student at Southwestern Seminary where he has just earned a master of divinity degree.

Carlin is a graduate of William Carey College and was a student summer missionary in Hawaii in 1983. His parents, Gerald and Mary Lou Carlin, were Southern Baptist missionaries in Ghana, West Africa. His father is pastor of Cornerstone Mission in Hattiesburg.

He served as a summer missionary in Hawaii and has made several basketball mission trips including to Paraguay and to Mexico. He has also worked as an employee of the Mississippi Employment Security Commission.

Carlin is married to Suzanne O'Quinn Carlin, a native of Graceville, Fla.

China's Christian leaders back student protests

By Erich Bridges

NANJING, China (BP) — China's Protestant leaders have thrown their support behind the thousands of students and other citizens demonstrating for democracy on the streets of the nation.

A statement praising the students was released May 23 by Bishop Ding Guangxun (K.H. Ting), head of the China Christian Council and the Three-Self Patriotic Movement, Chinese Protestants' two representative bodies.

"We wholeheartedly affirm the student demonstrations in Beijing, Shanghai and other cities in recent days," said the statement, dated May 18.

"The hunger strikes are a patriotic activity. Their demands arise from a feeling of patriotism.

"We sincerely hope and call upon the top-level leaders of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and the State Council to carry on a dialogue with the students as soon as possible."

Ding added a personal statement specifically supporting the participation of Chinese Christians in the historic call for democracy.

Students from the national Protestant seminary in Nanjing have taken

to the streets daily with tens of thousands of other Nanjing citizens demanding new freedoms.

"I am glad that Christians are making their presence felt in these demonstrations," Ding said. "I am very glad the students in the Nanjing Theological Seminary are taking an active part. They not only join the demonstrations but also try to serve their fellow students by sending them drinking water and bread. I understand the Christians of Beijing are also playing an active role."

Long recognized as China's top Protestant leader, Ding also commands influence in political circles. He was elected last year as a vice president of the National People's Congress, a broad-based official body that advises government leaders.

Ding joined some 40 other members of the congress' standing committee in calling for an emergency meeting to discuss the crisis "so that the democratic process could be facilitated and bloodshed avoided," he said.

Ding's statement immediately was backed by the Amity Foundation, the Protestant-sponsored social service organization that earlier had urged

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The Second Front Page

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Noonkester announces retirement from Carey

By Tim Nicholas

The tenure of one of the longest-seated American college presidents ends June 10 when J. Ralph Noonkester of William Carey College, Hattiesburg, Miss., retires.

Noonkester, who will be 65 that day, retires after 33 years as president of the 1,300 full time student Mississippi Baptist-affiliated college. He became president at age 32 in 1956 after four years there as professor of Bible and then as dean.

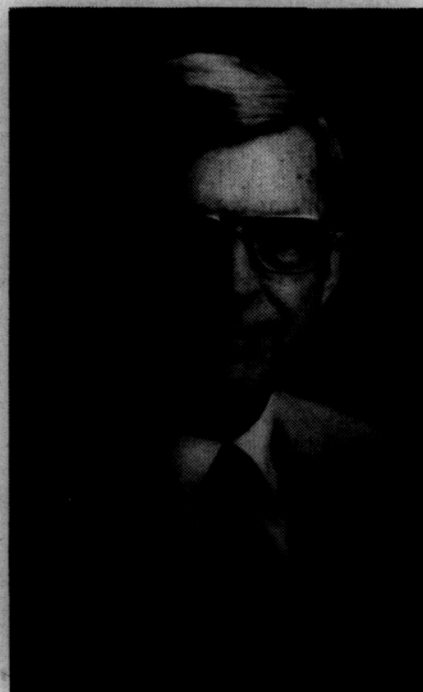
He made the announcement at a brief press conference on May 25 after telling faculty on campus that morning. He had notified Joseph Dale, trustee chairman, on May 23 of his intention to make a public announcement on June 8, but, he told the Baptist Record that pressures from the media led him to release the announcement early.

The college operates in Hattiesburg and Gulfport, with a nursing program in New Orleans.

A retirement dinner for Noonkester will be combined with the Annual Fund Drive banquet on June 8 in Hattiesburg.

The retirement ends a year of controversy for Noonkester who was accused by a minority of trustees of fiscal and administrative mismanagement. Those accusations were being officially investigated by the Mississippi Baptist Education Commission which divides state Baptist funds among Mississippi Baptist colleges.

Accusations centered around budget woes including the spending of endowment monies and a deficit approaching \$1 million. Last fall the trustee minority attempted to have Noonkester retired as of June 10, but



J. Ralph Noonkester

that action was reversed at the next meeting by the majority of trustees.

In a preliminary report in May, the Commission recommended hiring someone to handle all school finances. The trustees unanimously concurred and hired James Edwards who had been a member of the study team put together by the Education Commission. Edwards is a former financial officer of the Radio and Television Commission and of Union University in Jackson, Tenn.

The final report of the commission was to have been made May 25, the day Noonkester announced his retirement, but several trustees were unavailable to meet. The report is to be made in the near future.

Noonkester's brief retirement statement read at a press conference referred to the controversy. "The revolution is over," he said.

He added, "... I expect our school to return to being an educational institution. Even our critics may agree that Carey College has been punished enough."

Dale, a Prentiss layman, was unavailable for comment concerning search committee plans.

The retirement dinner will take place at the Hattiesburg Coca Cola company's banquet room at 7 p.m., June 8. Tickets are \$12.50 per person. For details, contact the Hattiesburg or Gulfport Carey campus or write Retirement Dinner, Box 1, William Carey College, Hattiesburg, MS 39401.

The full text of Noonkester's retirement announcement follows.

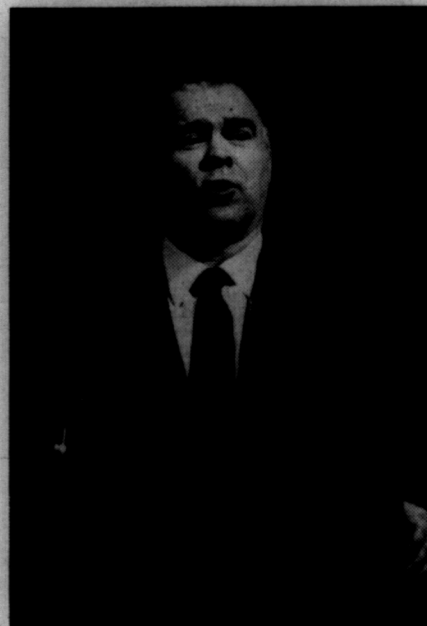
"Today I announce my retirement from the presidency of William Carey College effective two weeks hence, June 10, my 65th birthday. The fund raising dinner scheduled for June 8 as a climax to the 1989 Annual Fund Drive is actually my retirement dinner.

"The revolution is over. Earlier, I cited to you that I have been the real issue all along in this long controversy which has continued at William Carey College for eight months. Now that my retirement is to begin with my 65th birthday on June 10 I expect

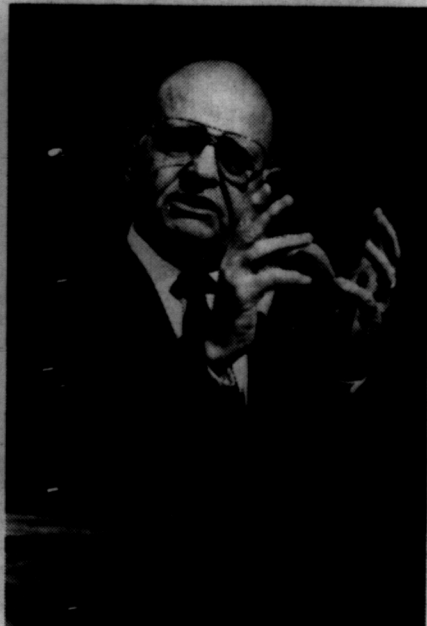
(Continued on page 4)

FMB debate over Brussels seminary continues

By Art Toalston



Paige Patterson



Keith Parks

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees adopted a resolution May 24 reaffirming their convention's longstanding commitment to cooperative missions but also recognizing the autonomy of Baptist churches to engage in their own missions endeavors.

The resolution was prompted by trustee Paige Patterson's negotiations for an evangelical school in Belgium and criticism of the possible purchase from board President R. Keith Parks and several European Baptist leaders.

Patterson is president of Criswell College, an arm of First Baptist Church of Dallas. He was elected by the Southern Baptist Convention as a Foreign Mission Board trustee last June.

(Patterson was placed on the slate of nominees for the FMB as a Texas

representative after the committee on nominations had asked a previous nominee from Texas, Joel Gregory, to step aside from nomination for the FMB and take a Home Mission Board nomination instead. Gregory did step aside from FMB nomination but declined HMB nomination. This was done over the protests of the Texas members of the committee on nominations.)

Patterson and Parks, acknowledging the difference in their views on missions, outlined their concerns during the trustees' meeting at the agency's headquarters here.

"We have disagreed, no question about that," Patterson said. Even so, he added, "We have been able to talk together as Christian gentlemen about it."

Negotiations between Criswell College and the financially troubled Belgian Center for Biblical Education near Brussels remain "open-ended,"

Patterson told trustees. An agreement to purchase the school is "highly unlikely as of this moment," he stated. "(It) always has been unlikely."

He has not yet raised the \$2 million necessary to purchase the school and fund its operation for one year and a \$3 million endowment to undergird the school for the future, he said.

The trustees' resolution, drafted by Chairman C. Mark Corts of Winston-Salem, N.C., and passed on a voice vote with no negative votes, affirms Southern Baptists' cooperative approach to missions and a belief in church autonomy shared by a range of Baptist groups.

"If a seeming conflict of interest occurs between these two principles," the resolution adds, "the current board accepts the responsibility for resolving such conflict."

In an hour-long meeting, (Continued on page 5)

Promises of prayer support among SBC presidency rewards

By Dan Martin

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — Southern Baptists have resolved their theological dispute and are ready to move forward, Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines said.

"To my view, we have settled the debate over the nature of Scripture. So the time is right to move into a new era of growth for our local churches," he said.

Vines, pastor of First Church here, made the comment in an interview with Baptist Press, as he nears the end of his first one year term as president of the denomination. He announced in February he is willing to be nominated for a second term when the convention meets June 13-15 in the Las Vegas (Nev.) Convention Center.

He said: "Southern Baptists have said in a variety of ways that we are a people who believe the Bible is the word of God, without error. The view which would question the accuracy and complete authority of the Scriptures is a pronounced minority view in the SBC."

After he was elected to the presidency at the 1988 annual meeting, Vines said he believed continuing the "theological correction," brought about in 11 years of disputation between conservatives and moderates in the SBC, is important.

In the 1989 interview, Vines said he believes "the theological renewal in our convention is underway. I am confident that our administrations and the boards of trustees of our institutions will lovingly monitor its progress unto resolution."

"Conscious effort"

Of his presidency, he said: "I have made a conscious effort to create an atmosphere where healing and reconciliation could occur. I have purposely lowered the rhetoric, though I have not compromised my theological convictions. I have tried to avoid divisive or explosive statements."

"This year, I have seen signs that many who have differing convictions are coming to an understanding that these convictions can be held not only without compromise but in a spirit of kindness and acceptance toward one another."

His appointments to four key committees which will serve during the 1989 annual meeting in Las Vegas, "reflect my views on this matter," he said. "As I indicated, we have certain parameters which are overwhelmingly accepted in Southern Baptist life. These parameters have to do with the nature of Scripture."

"Within those parameters there is splendid latitude in matters of interpretation. I believe my appointments this year, and, if I am elected again, my appointments next year will reflect this kind of openness."

Of his appointments, Vines said he had "made every effort, within the parameters I set for myself, to include as many people as possible; to name people who had never served before."

In reviewing his year as president, Vines said the presidency of the SBC is a "rigorous job. I have found there are not enough hours in the day or days in the week to do everything that has needed to be done."

"It has been rigorous but rewarding. Juggling the responsibilities as president of the denomination, pastor of a large church and husband and father has been quite difficult."

A big surprise was the "volume of the work," he said "I was not prepared for the volume of mail and calls. Just handling the mail has been a considerable assignment. I have made every effort to answer every letter that has been written to me. I have not been as successful in returning all of the telephone calls because time just has not permitted me to do that."

He joked that "any man who wants to be president of the SBC ought to have his head examined," but then added: "I hasten to say that I can identify with Thomas Jefferson's statement concerning the presidency of the United States. He called it a 'splendid misery.'"

"It has been rigorous, but it also has been rewarding. One of the rewards has been that almost daily, I have received letters and calls telling me of prayer support, and that has made my impossible assignment possible."

Another reward has been his enjoyment at "moving among our Southern Baptist people," he noted. "I have found them to be a great people, a loving people, and a group of committed pastors and people who have genuine desire to share Jesus with others."

His year in office, he said, "has given me a greater grasp of our work because being president has given me a perspective that cannot be obtained any other way. I have visited most of our major boards and have seen harmony and willingness to work together. The people on our boards do their own thinking but prayerfully subjugate their own desires for the good of Christ's kingdom and our SBC work."

"I also have been impressed with the caliber of the employees and their dedication to their assignments. The overwhelming majority I have met look upon their assignment not merely as a job but as a ministry."

Vines said he does not believe "anyone is necessarily entitled to anything" but said he is "willing to submit the matter of a second term to the will of the Lord and the will of the messengers. I will say that if the messengers favor me with the privilege of a second term, I believe I can be a better and more effective president during a second term because of the experience gained in the first term."

If messengers "favor" him with a second term, Vines, said the emphasis of his second term would be "an extension of the first year's emphasis, personal evangelism."

Second year

"The second year would reflect my understanding of New Testament evangelism, which I understand to be winning people to Christ and then involving them in a local Bible-believing church. Baptizing them and teaching them. In my second year, I would emphasize building soulwinning churches, and I would like to lead our convention to a renewed emphasis on church growth."

"The time is right. We have settled the debate over the nature of Scripture. Now it is time to move into a new era of growth in our local churches. We may very well be on the verge of the greatest years of growth in the local churches that we have ever experienced."

Vines said he is optimistic about the future of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"While I believe we should be realistic, I believe we have every reason to be optimistic. I am optimistic because baptisms are up. They are not up as much as they should be, but I am thankful for any trend upward."

"I read with gratitude that our foreign mission offering is up. Our mission programs are safe and strong."

He affirmed changes in the budgeting process of the SBC, which moves from a goal-oriented budget to a performance oriented budget. "We had to face reality in that we have not made our goal for several years and it is unrealistic to continue to increase the budget on a goal orientation when the funds are not there. We are now in more realistic budgeting."

"Now that this has been done, we will be in a position to increase every year."

Vines said in the seven years he has been pastor of the Jacksonville church, the congregation has increased gifts to the denomination's unified budget, the Cooperative Program, by more than 250 percent.

Figures indicate the church gave \$200,141 in 1987; \$250,141 in 1988; and Vines said it will be more than \$300,000 this year. "We have been increasing significantly every year," he said.

"Conservative churches are going to increase giving," he said. "From the personal perspective of the church which I serve, I think we have. I would never say we are where we ought to be, but at least the direction in which we are moving is toward increased support."

As he concluded the interview, Vines said: "I want to thank Southern Baptists for the privilege and honor to be their president this year. I would ask that all Southern Baptists join me in prayer for a harmonious convention in Las Vegas as we prepare to do what Southern Baptists do best: telling the old, old story of Jesus and his love."

Dan Martin is BP news editor.

China leaders back students

(Continued from page 3)

government and Communist leaders to negotiate with the students.

The bishop also thanked the people of Hong Kong for their "patriotic action" in support of democracy in China and asked world Christians to "remember us in their prayers."

Up to one million Hong Kong residents — one-sixth of the colony's population — marched May 21 in solidarity with Chinese demonstrators. About 10,000 Hong Kong Christians met for prayer before joining the rally, reportedly the largest in Hong Kong's history.

"God needs a courageous Chinese church to stand up for the Chinese people," Hong Kong Baptist pastor Gandhi Kwong told his congregation. "Today's Beijing is tomorrow's Hong Kong."

Hong Kong is scheduled to revert from British to Chinese rule in 1997. Erich Bridgman, editor of the Richmond Bureau of Baptist Press.

Gilberts return to work in Panama with others

PANAMA CITY (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries in Panama, after meeting in late May to assess the national situation, have advised co-workers currently out of the country to return. Mississippians James and Dot Gilbert returned to Panama last Friday after a short visit to family members in the States.

"As missionaries, we must be prepared to make necessary adjustments to working in a more tense environment," said mission Chairman Jackie Cooper.

Total gifts listed on annual report

Copies of the 1988 Mississippi Baptist Convention Annual were recently mailed to each church. A mistake has been made in the column reporting the amount of "Undesignated Gifts" in each Associational Summary Report (on pages 310 through page 495). The column actually shows the "total gifts" reported on the churches' Uniform Church Letter rather than "Undesignated Gifts" as the column heading indicates.

A corrected report for each association may be obtained from the Business Office (Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 — 601-968-3800). Also block number 124 of each church's Uniform Church Letter will show the correct amount.

Noonkester announces retirement

(Continued from page 3)

our school to return to being an educational institution. Even our critics may agree that Carey College has been punished enough.

"I am grateful to our administration, faculty, and students for enduring the most difficult times in the history of the college. I also call upon our Board of Trustees to work as a united body in the future to fulfill the institutional mission of the college."

"I have only one final word for all the constituency of William Carey College. Any human institution has its imperfections. We at Carey are no exception. I am very pleased that all of the real problems of the college were recognized in the Self-Study report by the administration, faculty, and staff and that the Visiting Team from the Southern Association of Colleges observed that the Self-Study had already, ahead of their visit, recognized these problems."

"Now that the revolution is over, I expect that we can return to the task of solving these problems and to making William Carey College the best school it can be."

"I thank all who have honored me with their unusual support during the past 37 years. To the Carey faculty I express my deepest gratitude for your loyalty and professionalism. I stayed with you as long as I could. To my supporters and contributors in the Southern Mississippi community I say 'Thank you.' You have given generously and unselfishly to help us realize our dreams at William Carey College. Finally, I say to Naomi and my family — you give me a sense of pride and fulfillment that some will never know."

"We do not see an immediate solution to the current crisis."

But conditions in places where missionaries work continued have returned to normalcy, with the exception of several areas where they have been advised not to return for a time, they said.

Violence and tension following the disputed May 7 presidential election, later nullified by the government, included the harassment of some Americans.

Several missionaries relocated near the United States-protected Canal Zone, and six other missionaries and volunteers, including the Gilberts, temporarily left the country.

In light of the return to relative calm, Cooper said: "The mission feels all missionaries can return to the field. Future ministry conditions may need to be evaluated on the field."

Cooper did not say how soon a postponed partnership effort with Georgia Baptist could resume. Some Georgians had been scheduled to work in Panamanian churches in May.

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Foreign Board affirms cooperative missions

(Continued from page 3)

Corts said he believes a trustee would be in a conflict of interest if "a competing loyalty to another organization or another cause" impaired his or her ability "to make sound financial or policy decisions in the best interests of Southern Baptists and foreign missions."

Patterson has not evidenced that problem, Corts said, but acknowledged, "It could appear to some people to be a conflict of interest."

"I think he has the right" to explore purchasing the school, Corts said, "and to find ways to give assistance to European Baptists and evangelicals."

Patterson, in an interview, said he is pleased with the resolution. To him, a conflict of interest is proceeding with an action contrary to the will of a majority of the trustees.

Last year, at one point in the board's study of financial problems of the international Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, purchase of the Belgian school facility had been considered as one alternative.

Patterson told trustees he was first approached by officials at the Belgian school three and one-half years ago and has been in periodic negotiations ever since. He suspended talks when he became aware of the board's options, he said, noting he agreed to resume them when trustees voted to transfer ownership of the Ruschlikon property to the European Baptist Federation.

In seeking a balance between the principles of cooperation and autonomy, the resolution assures "our mission partners . . . of our commitment to a cooperative approach" to missions, while also upholding "the autonomy of local churches in mission enterprise and encouraging them to work in consultation as appropriate."

Criswell College's primary concern is not owning the Belgian school but keeping open a "strategically important evangelical witness in Europe," Patterson told trustees.

Parks, in his comments, said a spirit of cooperation among autonomous churches "birthed us and has held us together," and "God has blessed us to become the strongest denominational mission effort yet in the world. Every other group envies our cooperative effort."

"We who are entrusted with that cooperative effort, I feel, must do everything we can to communicate very clearly to Southern Baptists, to the missionaries, to the Baptist partners with whom we work in Europe or anywhere else that we are committed to that cooperative effort."

But when a trustee, staff member, or missionary "begins to emphasize the independent approach, institutionalizing a venture on the mission field that is outside the bounds of what we've defined as our cooperative mission effort, I think that creates confusion," Parks said. "I think it has the possibility of weakening our effort."

Parks' disagreement with Patterson "does not have anything to do with personal feelings toward each other,"

Parks said. "We have had nothing but cordial conversation," even at times "joking and laughing together and enjoying the stimulation of the discussion."

"This disagreement has nothing to do with the controversy in the convention," Parks continued. "This disagreement has nothing to do with whether either one of us is interested in evangelizing Europe. We both are."

Rather, it involves differing emphases on "two valid Baptist concepts, basic principles," he said.

If Criswell College purchases the Belgian school, Patterson assured trustees of "our total cooperation." Regular communications will be held "not only with this board but also with European Baptists," he said.

"It's probably no secret that I've had some real questions in my mind about Ruschlikon across the years," Patterson conceded, referring to the theological bent of the faculty. But "I have great confidence in Dr. John David Hopper," a Southern Baptist missionary who did extensive work in eastern Europe before assuming the seminary's presidency in January 1988.

"It is not our purpose to . . . be the opponent of Ruschlikon or anybody else who loves Jesus and preaches the gospel," Patterson said.

Patterson recounted that school officials were concerned that news of negotiations with an American institution would cause a severe drop in donations from European supporters, thus deepening their financial problems, "which incidentally is what has happened." The school's operating deficit already stood at \$145,000 per year, he said.

After the negotiations were reported, initially by a Dutch Baptist newspaper, school officials lifted their stipulation not to discuss publicly the efforts, Patterson said. He now has talked with Knud Wumpelmann, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation and other Baptist leaders in Europe and mailed information to still others, he said.

The Belgian Center for Biblical Education is located in a 500-room former Roman Catholic Jesuit seminary that closed in the early 1970s. The 10-acre site was purchased with funds supplied by the Greater Europe Mission in Wheaton, Ill., and European evangelicals. The school is accredited to offer bachelor-level and doctorate degrees in theology and has 160 resident students, a small minority of them Baptists.

If Criswell College purchases the school, it will not be transformed into a strictly a Baptist institution, Patterson said in an interview. Belgian law, for example, requires that three-fifths of its governing body be Belgian residents, he noted.

No immediate changes in the faculty would be made, Patterson said, but vacancies created by attrition would be filled with Baptists or instructors from the free-church tradition that embraces baptistic beliefs, such as church membership based on baptism by immersion after conversion.

Art Toalston writes for the FMB.

"Invitation" is topic for key leaders

"How to Give an Evangelistic Invitation" is the topic of a one day Key Leadership Seminar on June 27.



Kelley

The seminar will take place at the Baptist Building, 515 Mississippi Street in Jackson, beginning at 9:30 a.m., concluding at 3 that afternoon. Leading the seminar will be Chuck Kelley, associate professor of evangelism at New Orleans Seminary, and Guy Henderson, director of the Department of Evangelism, MBCB, which sponsors the event.

According to Henderson, the seminar will "enable the pastor to evaluate the invitation and know its history, how to make the invitation clear, and know better methods of making an invitation."

Cost of the seminar is \$10 which will cover lunch and study materials. To register, write Henderson at Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Tape of Vestal sermon sent to churches

By Dan Martin

ATLANTA (BP) — A tape recording of a sermon by Daniel Vestal spelling out his reasons for allowing his nomination for president of the Southern Baptist Convention has been mailed to 36,700 SBC churches.

The sermon, preached Sunday night, April 16, to the congregation of Dunwoody Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta, was mailed by the church's deacons the week of May 15-19. The cover letter was addressed to "Dear Fellow Southern Baptist" and was signed by 31 of the the deacons of the 3,500-member congregation.

In the sermon, Vestal told of "soul searching and prayer" which led to his decision to allow his nomination at the SBC annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., June 13-15. He will oppose incumbent SBC President Jerry Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., who announced in February his willingness to be nominated for a second term.

According to John Murillo, administrator at the Dunwoody church, the mailing cost about \$26,800, including \$20,000 for reproduction of the tapes, \$800 for the labels and \$3,000 each for printing and mailing. Volunteers prepared the mailing.

The cover letter specifies the mailing "is paid for by individual private contributions and Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention." Baptists Committed was organized last December, calling itself a "centrist" organization in the SBC.

The mailing list, Murillo said, was obtained by Dunwoody Associate Pastor Rick Fisher and included "every pastor" in the SBC, or about 36,700 names. Murillo said he did not know where Fisher obtained the list or whether it was the list used for the mailing prior to the 1988 annual meeting.

Vestal said he is "not the candidate of Baptists Committed; I don't belong to them. I am not ashamed to be identified with them."

(Continued on page 8)

Thursday, June 1, 1989

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Helpers needed

Renovation project now underway at Bowlin

Members of Bowlin Church, Attala County, held the first of several planned work days on Saturday, May 6.

The church was organized in 1879 and in 1888 the building which is still used as the sanctuary was erected. The building remained as originally constructed until about 14 years ago when the kerosene lamps were replaced with electric lights and the wood burning heater was replaced with butane heat. Other improvements have been made inside but the exterior of the building is original. Due to the aged wood, paint would no longer adhere to the surface and white vinyl siding is being installed. Efforts are being made to preserve as much

of the original architectural appearance of the century old building as possible.

Members voted in January to undertake the renovation and set up a fund to cover the cost of the material with the labor to be provided by membership. A goal was set to have one half the money on hand by May 6 and this was accomplished.

The work is being done on Saturdays and men, women, youth, and children are participating. Anyone wishing to assist will be welcomed. They hope to be finished prior to the annual homecoming on June 11. Johnny Parks is pastor.

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Missions no joke to comedian

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Mississippian Jerry Clower, a former counselor in the Southern Baptist Royal Ambassador missions organization, is the featured speaker at the annual Brotherhood Breakfast, Wednesday, June 14, at the Las Vegas (Nev.) Hilton Hotel. He also will pre-

sent the 1989 National Jerry Clower Award to Kendall Shuler of Mansfield, Mo., the High School Baptist Young Men's Missions Speak Out winner. The award was named for Clower in 1984.

Reservations can be made through the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, Tenn.



Fannie Russell shows how Goliath towered over the people. Standing on the table gets everyone's attention.

Photos by Tim Nicholas



Friends help each other out at Highland.

Highland knows how to love

By Anne W. McWilliams

"This is a church that knows how to love," said the pastor, Cliff Shipp, on a Sunday evening at Highland, Jackson. "Everyone has something to offer in the service of the Lord."

Special Ministries Department members, in their usual places, made up at least a third of the congregation, more present than from any department. "They are a large part of our church," said Shipp. "They have something to contribute — themselves."

"Thank you, God, for a beautiful weekend," said Lex Willis in the offertory prayer. Then he prayed for a friend who had hurt his hand and for another friend who needed to find a job. This was the once-a-month Sunday night when the special members take an active part in the program. "Do, Lord, do, Lord, oh, do remember me," sang the Special Ministries Choir. Paula Hudson and Tearsea Wikes sang "Amazing Grace." Kelly Jones sang "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder."

Highland is an inner city church, the pastor pointed out, that has been able to cross some racial barriers. In a little more than five years the enrollment of the Special Ministries Department has grown from four to 29. It is probably the largest such ministry in Jackson.

Besides worship services, Highland provides a lot of fun things for this department. At the Walt Disney Icecapades, David — saw Snow White about to bite the poisoned apple and shouted, "No White, don't bite the apple!" and started crying. They've been to Timberlawn Dude Ranch, too, as well as to a circus, the ballet, Man-ship House, the Old Capitol, and on a fishing trip. They regularly go on picnics and to the Metro Center.

"My greatest satisfaction is this," said Fannie Russell, director of the department (and head nurse at Jackson Recovery Center), "to see their growth. It's like a shriveled flower which ends up as a rosebud." She and Debbie Traylor were the ones who began this mushrooming ministry of Highland.

"All of us workers love it!" said Walter Pool, a helper. Other workers in the department are Dott Burgess, Johnnie Hall, Marilyn Shipp, (the pastor's wife), Christine Stewart,

(Continued on page 8)



The special choir at Highland regularly sings on Sunday evenings.



Kelly Jones, one of the special ministries members, made this drawing of Christ.



Here is a demonstration of the way David killed Goliath.



The members become involved in discussions, reciting biblical contents from memory.



Members discuss the Bible lesson taught during Church Training hour at Highland.

Church secretaries wear a lot of hats

By Jim Lowry

NASHVILLE (BP) — From the first line of ministry to the last word in explaining the whereabouts of staff members, church secretaries keep the church wheels rolling smoothly, according to secretarial specialists.

Nearly 700 secretaries from Southern Baptist churches, associations, and state conventions met here April 26-29 to attend the fourth National Conference for Southern Baptist Secretaries.

How to balance responsibilities and take advantage of available resources was one of the primary areas of focus for the secretaries, said Donna Gandy, consultant for church secretaries in the board's church administration department. Registrants attended personal enrichment and vocational specialty conferences and workshops to help them better understand how they fit into the ministry team in a local church.

The issue of the widely varied responsibilities facing secretaries was addressed, and help was offered on dealing with potential sources of stress.

In one conference, secretaries listed the different things they might be called on to do in any given day. The list included mediator, babysitter, comforter, information source, nurse, keeper of keys, reservations taker, keeper of the lost and found, copy queen, confidante, and benevolence source.

Brooks Faulkner, senior manager of the church staff support section in the church administration department of the Sunday School Board, which

hosted the event, led a conference on "Making Stress Work for You," which addressed the everyday workplace problems combined with being a mother, wife, cook, and taxi driver at home.

After listing several common personality traits in stress-prone individuals, Faulkner offered some practical ways to deal with stress in a preventative manner.

Several secretaries were anxious to discuss stress caused by staff members who do not leave information about anticipated office hours for the day and how to deal with angry people who call the church office.

For the latter, Faulkner said: "There are some things you can't do anything about. Just listen, say, 'thank you for calling,' and that you must get on to another responsibility. You have done all you can do."

Pastors and other staff members are making unreasonable demands on church secretaries to expect the secretaries to explain staff members' schedules when they have not been given any information, he said.

Gayle Hilligoss, a secretarial consultant from Lee's Summit, Mo., who was a secretary in a Baptist church for several years, said secretaries need to complement the skills of their supervisors.

In her conference, "Mine are the Small Initials," she said secretaries can look at their role as unimportant or they can represent the efforts of an enabler who works side by side with a minister.

Thursday, June 1, 1989



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Where I get money to travel

The other day as I was walking across Smith Park I met a woman who said to me, "I promised myself if I ever met you again face to face, I was going to ask you a question. Where in the world do you find the money to do so much traveling?"

It wasn't too difficult to give her an answer. "First, I just do without other things (besides travel), save up my money, and buy a ticket!" It takes single-mindedness and discipline. Fortunately we found a house that has a small monthly payment. I've bought little furniture for it in the past 15 years and only redecorated two rooms in all that time. I buy clothes once or twice a year and wear them for many years. I buy shoes at Shoe City and wear them until they fall apart. I drive my cars until they touch the 100,000 mark. When we invite guests to our house for dinner, they know they're probably going to eat some of the fish that W.D. catches. (His "fun" money goes for fishing.) When it comes to expensive wrapping paper, I have a stingy quirk. I wrap a lot of gifts in old Baptist Records or in the Sunday comics.

Second, in recent years I have opened a special travel account in another bank, completely separate from my checking, and other savings accounts.

I've suggested to some of my family members that they might like to give me travel money for birthdays or Christmas; if they do, it goes in that account. If I get an unexpected check from anyone or anywhere, it goes there.

Third, I have over the years done a considerable bit of free lance writing. If I get a check for an article, or a little royalty on a book I've written, it goes into the travel account. That money represents many a night of midnight oil.

The first time I went to Europe in 1955, I borrowed \$100 from Nelda Trigg, Dr. Quarles' secretary, to make a deposit on the tour. (Since then, I've only borrowed once to pay for a trip.) In 1955, I sailed economy class on the Italian ship, the Castel Felice. Six weeks in Europe cost only a little more than \$1,000.

In 1970, when I traveled to the Baptist World Alliance in Tokyo, I had been writing for the Baptist Sunday School Board — Sunday School lessons for older children — and saving my earnings from that.

One trip I made to Central America, including Panama and the San Blas Islands. Owen Cooper invited me to go and do a series of articles. Agricultural Missions paid for

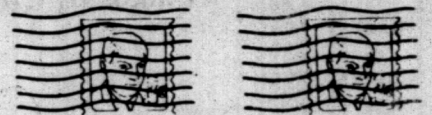
my plane fare and I stayed in homes of missionaries, at the suggestion of a representative of the Foreign Mission Board.

Actually, I don't travel as much as it may seem. My stories about trips are just spread over a long period of time! In the state, I average two days a month driving somewhere for interviews. This is part of my job, for which I receive a salary and travel expenses.

In one case, the round-the-world trip I made three years ago, my employer paid a part of my expenses because I was to interview missionaries and write stories for the Record during most of the following year.

Indy Whitten, retired missionary who lives in Clinton, said she would like to have as her epitaph, "I never chased a butterfly that I didn't catch." I, too, in my lifetime, have chased a lot of butterflies that I have caught. I'm always setting goals — be it a trip or something else — and striving toward them. Many of them, with the Lord's help, I've reached. Others I have not. Some butterflies I chased and didn't catch. Then, looking back, I was most grateful I had not — for they were ones that the Lord could see, though I could not at the time — that I didn't need.

Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

Thanks from France

Editor:

It was our privilege to have a group of women from Mississippi teach our children and youth during our annual mission meeting April 1-8, 1989. The Mississippi WMU, under the leadership of Monica Keathley and Trish Simmons, was responsible for enlisting, sending, and directing the group. There were 32 children involved in the program. Those women participating were Ann Melton, Ackerman; Marty Perkins, Moss Point; Rose Anna Welch, Mendenhall; Lola Autry, Hickory Flat; Barbara Evans, Wiggins; Melissa Yates, McComb; Ona Mae Willingham, Wiggins; Katherine Bush, Richton; Frances Downs, Shaw; and Trish Simmons, Clinton.

Enclosed you will find a resolution adopted by our mission during its annual meeting April 1-8, 1989.

Sarah Grant Perkins
Southern Baptist Mission
in France

"Whereas the Southern Baptist Mission in France has had the privilege of receiving a team of children's teachers from Mississippi, and

Whereas these teachers have been a tremendous help to the missionaries in caring for their children during the 1989 Mission Meeting, and

Whereas they have been a blessing to the missionaries and their children, and

Whereas the instruction has been of highest quality, and

Whereas the resulting prayer support for the mission work in France will be increased.

Be it resolved that Southern Baptist Mission in France express its thanks to the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union for enlisting and organizing the team, and

Be it further resolved that the Southern Baptist Mission in France express its deepest gratitude to the members of the team for their investment of time and money, and for a job well done."

Carey letter embargo

Editor:

The Baptist Record has long been an excellent forum in which to air our beliefs, concerns, and prayers; yet in recent times this may be questioned. Several weeks ago, the statement was made that no more letters concerning William Carey College would be published. This is a judgment call that the editor has every right to make. This call has resulted in the loss of a means in which the public can state opinions.

On the other hand, the administration of Carey seemingly has full access to any notoriety it desires as concerns your coverage of the events surrounding our alma mater. If the officials of the college are allowed to use your publication in which to cite incompetence, friends and alumni

should be afforded the same courtesy to offer up either prayers or praise.

Please reconsider your stance on letters dealing with William Carey College. We need a forum in which to speak as does the administration, although we feel confident that the Christian character of Carey alumni will not allow us to slander or demean anyone striving to do what is believed to be the Lord's will.

Shawneen Berry Hogg
McAdams

The embargo on letters on the Carey situation, as stated, was not for all time but until the Education Commission had completed its investigation and made its report to the William Carey College trustees. Though I have not been told this by anyone involved, nor have I seen a copy of the report, I understand that this has taken place. Therefore the embargo is lifted, as would be noted by the publication of this letter.

The embargo was put into effect because of the possibility of some very emotional exchanges on the letters pages that it was felt should be held while the Education Commission was doing its work. It was not a request of the commission and may not have made any difference to that body. It was my own decision.

While we have tried to keep the BAPTIST RECORD letters free of personal attacks, it is unavoidable sometimes in news reporting. In the case you mention, we felt we had to contact the ones pointed out for any rebuttal they might want to make. It would have been much easier to have left out the entire episode, and even preferable to do so; yet what was reported was what happened. To me, it is a sad condition. — Editor

ACTS debt accepted

Editor:

The decision by the Board of Trustees of the Radio and Television Commission to reject the \$15 million and four hours a day for 30 years offer to purchase the ACTS network should make a Rubicon in Baptist rhetoric and relationship to this telecommunication mission strategy.

It is to be hoped that the term "debt-ridden network" will disappear from the Baptist vocabulary. The trustees interpret the will of God and the desires of the people who elected them to be to maintain ownership of ACTS. The decision to keep the \$8.7 million debt means it should be viewed in the same way a new church debt, a new dormitory debt, or a denominational executive building debt is viewed. It is a necessary step in performing a valuable ministry for Christ.

It is to be hoped that the additional \$4 to \$5 million a year will be invested from national mission funds in this sharing of Christ daily in the homes of more than nine million families. Surely out of an annual budget of more than \$130 million, \$4 million can be invested in this crucial strategy of missions.

The marketing challenge for ACTS to the cable industry as a single-denominationally owned network is a tremendous one. Every Baptist needs to assist immediately with a letter or a telephone call of appreciation to the cable company which is carrying ACTS in your community. Channels are already being lost, and your call could make the difference. If they don't have ACTS, ask for it.

It is gratifying to me as I come to the completion of my task of finding the strategy for churches in television

and founding the ACTS network to see many Baptists coming to a new appreciation for its potential for God.

Jimmy R. Allen
President
Radio and Television
Commission

The grandeur of Nineveh

Editor:

About every five years we have the story about Jonah and the whale or great fish in our Sunday School lesson.

I could not imagine just what the city of Nineveh looked like. Now I have researched the city. It was lost and forgotten for more than 2,000 years. Then, in the 1800s archaeologists unearthed the site.

Genesis Chapter 10, verses 8 and 9, declared the Nimrod built Nineveh.

Nineveh stood on the banks of the Tigris River, the eastern side, about 230 miles north of present day Bagdad. Nineveh became even greater after Jonah. It was described by Diodorus Siculus. The circumference of Nineveh was 60 miles. It was surrounded by walls 100 feet high and so wide that three chariots could drive abreast on the top. There were 1,500 towers 200 feet high.

Layard, the excavator of its towers and temples and palaces, said it was once magnificent. A complete library was found in assyrian language. And at the time before the Medes and Babylonian invaders destroyed Nineveh, it was the greatest city in the world.

The greatest moment in the case of Jonah is that our Lord Jesus Christ accepted the miracle of Jonah's. (Continued on page 8)

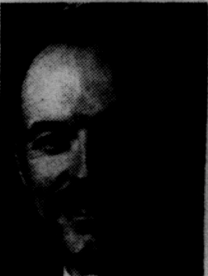
Names in the news



Two Deacons were ordained at Riverhill Church, Itawamba Association on April 16. Pictured, left to right, are Kirk Reese, deacon, S. E. O'Brian, pastor, and Roy Barrett, deacon.

Miss Kim McGuffee of Mendenhall, Miss Mississippi of 1986, will be the guest speaker at White Oak Church, Magee, June 4 at 9 p.m. for the "Late Night Extra" youth oriented program. She will also bring special music during the evening worship service at 7 p.m. James C. Edwards is pastor.

W. H. "Dee" DeBold, Jr., a native of Jackson, is seeking a full time church, but meanwhile, he is available for interim or supply work. After graduation from New Orleans Seminary, he spent 11 years in pioneer mission work in Pennsylvania. He can be contacted at Rt. 2, Box 40, Mendenhall, MS 39114, or call (601) 847-4062.



DeBold

Midwestern grants degrees

One person with ties to Mississippi was among 114 individuals receiving degrees during recent commencement exercises at Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

Raymond Jeffcoat received the master of divinity degree. He considers Poplarville, Miss., his hometown.

Currently, he is pastor of Blockton Baptist Church, Blockton, Iowa.

The wastepaper basket is a writer's best friend. — Isaac Bashevis Singer

Revival dates

Duffee, June 4-9, Jim Hill, Columbia, evangelist; Mrs. Hill, pianist; Steve Avara, pastor, leading the singing.

Rawls Springs, Hattiesburg: June 2-4; youth revival; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m., fellowship to follow; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Larry McEwen, youth evangelist, speaker; Tommy Dobbins, pastor.

Coila (Carroll): June 4-9; 7:30 p.m.; C. C. Burns, Meridian, evangelist; Herbert Davis, music; Billy Blakely, pastor.

Senior adult corner

The senior adult choir of Alta Woods Church, Jackson, presents the musical "Age Isn't really Important," June 4, at 6 p.m. Dramatic parts will be played by Mrs. Thelma Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. Lamar Smith, and fifth grader Jeremy Jones. Bob Jones is music minister.

Curtis C. Hatcher and Clay Moss were ordained to the gospel ministry at First Church, Richland (Rankin County), May 21. Hatcher presently serves as minister of music and youth at First Church, Richland, where his wife, Mary Lou, serves as pianist. Moss is minister of evangelism and missions at First Church, Richland. He and his wife, Vicky, have committed themselves to serve as home missionaries in Idaho where he will serve as a church planter with First Church, Richland, Home Mission Board, and Northwest Baptist Convention as co-sponsors.

Chapmans to give concert at Hillcrest, N. Albany

Hillcrest Church, New Albany, is preparing for a musical call for family commitment, "Bind Us Together," to be presented Wednesday, June 7, at 7 p.m. and June 8 at 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

Two of the musical's creators, Steve and Annie Chapman of Nashville, will appear with Hillcrest's combined choirs, according to Eddie Thompson, Hillcrest music director.

The Chapmans have been featured guests on author/psychologist James Dobson's national radio program, "Focus on the Family," and guest musicians on Dobson's film, "Turn Your Heart Toward Home." They compose most of the songs they sing.

Tickets are available at a minimum donation of \$3 each at Hillcrest Church and The Vault in New Albany or at Christian Supply Service and WCFB Radio in Tupelo.

Vestal sermon

(Continued from page 5)

tified with the goals they espouse and believe in. They have chosen to support me, and I am grateful for that as well as for the support of people who are not in any way (politically) aligned or affiliated."

Said Vestal, "My deacons had a meeting and decided they wanted to send the tape out as a gesture of affirmation, showing they had confidence in me and in my integrity."

Baptists Committed is "a kind of resistance movement," he noted. "Not underground, thank God, but a resistance movement nevertheless, because there is a power control in the convention . . . so tight . . . that if you do not give allegiance to that movement, you are not allowed a place in the convention leadership."

Vestal in recent weeks has appeared in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas.

"In those meetings, I tell them I have three goals. First to depolitize the convention. Baptists are tired of all of this. They want doctrinal integrity, but they want all of this crass politics to stop."

Highland knows how to love

(Continued from page 6)

Ricky Hall, and Emma Jean Wiggs.

Of those Special Ministries department, five still live in their parents' homes; others are in supervised or independent living arrangements. Some work in the community and some in sheltered workshops.

"We get great support from the directors of the supervised places," said Mrs. Russell. "As new persons come to them, they tell them about Highland. Also the ones in our department keep bringing others. They tell their friends how much fun they have at church."

One young fellow, a house manager told them, could not talk. However, since he's been coming to Highland, he has been talking. He also sings. Three have made professions of faith this year.

A van, driven by J. B. Hall mornings and Charles McInnis nights, picks up special members over a wide area. Individuals bring others in their cars.

"They are easy to work with," said Mrs. Russell. They pray for everyone in the church. If you feel bad when you go in, you won't when you leave."

Flannelgraph time is one of their favorite activities, when Mrs. Russell or one of the pupils illustrate Bible stories in pictures and action. "David

and Goliath" is a popular choice.

The church gave them Bibles for Christmas. Special ministries' members, divided into three levels for Sunday School and four for Church Training, have learned Bible verses, studied the Ten Commandments, the difference between the Old and New Testaments, how to pray, the alphabet . . . They've had classes at Highland in sex education, dental hygiene, and manners and good grooming. "They are the neatest group I ever worked with," said Mrs. Russell. "They even ate peanut butter and didn't get it on them!"

Reasons Walter Pool gives for enjoying his work in special ministries — and he also works for the State Tax Commission — are that he has come to the realization that these youths have needs just like others, and "they show unconditional affection."

Concerning the future of Special Ministries, Pastor Shipp said that because of being an inner city church, "we may get too weak to carry on and to support this work. If we do, I don't know what will happen then . . ."

But for now, Kelly Jones, a Special Ministries member, turned to a Sunday night guest of the church and hugged her. He said, "Come again. You are very welcome at Highland."

Just for the Record

Bethany Church, Merigold, will host a homecoming for former pastors and residents of Sunflower Plantation, June 24. The times are from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. "Bring a picnic. Hot dogs, cokes, and ice cream will be available," says Carolyn Beach of Riverdale, Ga.

Concord (Yazoo) will hold Vacation Bible School June 5-9, from 7 to 9 p.m. Ages included will be from preschool children through older youths (grade 12). The VBS director will be Margaret Neely. Ralph Cain is the pastor.

Homecomings

Mt. Zion (Lincoln): June 4; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch to follow in fellowship hall; memorial service and business meeting; 1 p.m.; Wayne Kimbrough, pastor.

East End, Columbus: June 4; Sunday School, 9:45; morning worship, 11; lunch in activities building, 12:15; afternoon gospel singing at 1:30 in sanctuary; G. C. Sansing, pastor of East End from 1954-1969, speaking; special day ties in with a debt reduction emphasis on the sanctuary, which was built in 1982.

Linn (Sunflower): June 4; Artie Nute, former member, deacon, and interim pastor will speak during 11 a.m. worship service; specials will be presented by Mrs. Nancy Nute; covered dish lunch following morning services; afternoon service will be a time of singing, with special music provided by Susanne and Jimmy McLendon, pastor.

Antioch, Florence: June 4; Sunday School, 10; morning worship, 11; Phil Mullins, morning message; fellowship lunch served; song service after lunch; Barry Ward, pastor.

West Salem, Piave: June 4; worship services, 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner and afternoon sing; Mitchell Smith, guest speaker; The Bean Family, special music; Allen Williams, pastor.

Coila (Carroll): June 4; services, 10:45 a.m.; morning message, Billy Blakely; lunch served in fellowship hall; afternoon singing, 1:30 p.m.; featuring The New Heart from Louisville.

First, Isola: June 4, 85th anniversary; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Gene Foshee, pastor, preaching; fellowship lunch following; Sammy Crawford, music; history of the church has been written by Mrs. Calvin Crawford; Bob Maddux of Col-dwater, former pastor, and Johnny Wagner of Louisiana, special guests.

Main Street, Goodman: June 4; services, Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship services, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; afternoon service with Darbie Pope bringing special music; lunch served following the morning service; Ray Allen, pastor.

Woodhaven, Ocean Springs: June 4; Zeno Wells, guest speaker, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds to follow; gospel singing led by Burl Cooley in afternoon; Tracy Martin, pastor.

Chester, Ackerman: June 4; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; followed by lunch in fellowship hall; "Open House" at new pastorium from 2 until 4 p.m.; Rob Faulk, pastor.

Liberty (Carroll): June 4; services begin at 10:45 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; afternoon, Jeff Steele, special music; Keith Powell, pastor.

The grandeur . . .

(Continued from page 7)

preservation and used it as a type of Jesus' burial and resurrection. Our Lord used it as the crowning fact over his victory over death. Thus in the oldest and first of the prophets we perceive the great fact of Christ's resurrection.

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Staff changes

Tommy Purvis has accepted a call as pastor to Little Mount Church, Taylorsville, Ky. He is the former pastor at Highland Church in Tishomingo County. He is currently working on his master of divinity degree at Southern Seminary in Louisville. Carla, his wife, is employed at the Kentucky Baptist Convention as secretary to Guy Futral, minister-

church relations consultant.

Brian Pannell has resigned as music director of the Barton Church. He plans to enter Mississippi College.

First Church, Leakesville, has called David Skinner as music and youth director. Skinner's father is pastor of Glendale Church, Hattiesburg.

Mississippi Baptist activities

June 4 Baptist Record Sunday (BR Emphasis in every church)
Religious Liberty Sunday (CAC Emphasis)

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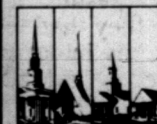
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What love involves

QUESTION:

Could you please send me some further information on what love involves? You talked about how love involves mutual caring, but said something more is needed, something having to do with Christianity. I would appreciate any information you could give me.

ANSWER:

What we were trying to get at is that "love is the warm acceptance of other persons — and including yourself."

This is a simple, every day description of what real love is. It contains emotion, but it is more than an emotion. It is a way of regarding other people (and yourself). It is a value system. It compels action, not mere verbiage.

If such a thesis can be accepted, it (like Shakespeare) makes self love not a sin but a necessity. I have to warmly accept myself before I can even change myself. It also applies to love for God.

I suppose the chief point of our emphasis was that human love received a new dimension in Christianity. We think that it is the Christian doctrine of the surpassing worth of every individual that makes it possible to really warmly accept others (and self), as they are. If God is love, then those who are involved with him know better how to love.

Hockey team witness in Russia

LENINGRAD, USSR (EP) — Jack Isleib, director of Christian Sports Outreach International, believes this is a critical time for Christians to bring the Gospel of Christ to the people of the Soviet Union. He recently led a group that he describes as "55 missionaries disguised as hockey players" on a three-week hockey tour of Sweden, Finland, and Leningrad, USSR.

"Russia was like I'd never seen it before," said Isleib, veteran of three trips to the USSR. "I've never seen a hunger for the Gospel like I saw over there. I was amazed at what transpired."

Though getting into the Soviet Union as missionaries would be impossible, getting in as sportsmen is possible. "Though we said we were Christian Sports Outreach, we went in as a hockey team," said Isleib, who was able to schedule the games through a contact in Sweden. "But we're missionaries first, sports is only the vehicle. It's a platform to share the Lord."

In two previous trips to Russia, Isleib and his hockey teams were forbidden by Soviet government officials to share the Gospel. Their government-appointed interpreters, "inter-tourist guides," tried to keep them from visiting Russian state churches. It was different this time.

"We preached the Gospel right on the street of Leningrad, in front of the National Museum of Atheism, with microphones," said Isleib. "We were there Monday through Friday, and we kept going back preaching on the streets, and nobody bothered us. We witnessed to army officers, we witnessed to everybody. We were never allowed to do this before."

They were also allowed to preach and sing between periods in the hockey games. Tracts with the message of salvation printed in Russian were distributed to every fan in the packed arenas and Bibles were given to each of the Soviet players and coaches.

Southeastern alumni lunch is scheduled

Wake Forest, N.C. — The National Alumni Luncheon of Southeastern Seminary will be held on June 14 at the Las Vegas Hilton.

The annual event will take place during the 1989 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. The program will include a report and dialogue with Southeastern President Lewis A. Drummond and a report from R. Clint Hopkins, alumni president. Election of officers for 1989-90 will also take place.

The luncheon will be held from 1-3 p.m. in Pavilion 9 of the hotel. Tickets are \$14.50 in advance and \$20 at the door. Orders for advance tickets must be received by June 7. For more information, contact Ann Cohen at 919-556-3101.

A lot of history is usually just gossip that has become respectable with age.

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Southwestern graduates 16 from Mississippi

FORT WORTH, Texas — Southern Baptist pastor Franklin Pollard told graduates at Southwestern Seminary May 12 they could have no greater credentials than a calling from God.

"What a beautiful thing that you go out knowing that God sent you," said Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss.

Southwestern President Russell Dillard conferred 426 degrees on the class, including 16 from Mississippi.

"To every cry for help from the people of God, God's answer is his people," Pollard told the graduates. He cited Moses, Joshua and Gideon as biblical examples of men God called to deliver his people from trouble and despair.

"And this is still God's call to you and me today," Pollard said. "God is calling us and telling us, 'As my people, you are the answer.'"

Pollard said ministers should be active in meeting the physical and spiritual needs of God's people, adding the greatest need is "to fulfill the lostness of people's souls."

He said Christianity has been hurt in recent years by a lack of integrity among ministers. "Too many ministers today are doing just what Aaron did at the foot of Mount Sinai," he said. "They are telling people what they want to hear and giving them a God they can live with."

Instead, Pollard said ministers need to present a biblical picture of God as they respond to the cries of God's people.

Mississippi graduates included Michael West Brown, Columbus, master of music; Rana E. Burt, Nettleton, master of arts in religious education; Paul Scott Carlin, Hattiesburg, master of divinity; John David Chandler, Columbus, master of divinity; Rhonda L. Cole, daughter of Glenna and Stanley Stamps, missionaries to Honduras, master of arts in religious education; Thomas Ellsworth Ferguson, Gulfport, master of music, associate pastor for music and youth, Alexandria, Va.; Mark Arthur Frederick, Amory, master of divinity; Robert L. Gilliland, Valley Park, associate in divinity; Martha Graham, Aberdeen, master of arts in marriage and family counseling; Kim Hunt, Jackson, master of divinity; Kathryn Langworthy, Calhoun City, master of music; Kathy Frances Latham, Kosciusko, missionary to the Philippines, master of arts in religious education; Pamela Faye Pybas, Madison, master of divinity; John Maxwell Price, Raleigh, master of divinity; Jeffrey Neron Smith, Jackson, master of arts in religious education; Kathryn Elizabeth Southall, Greenville, master of arts in religious education.

Clark group travels to Ohio for revivals; results cited

On April 20, T. R. Coulter, pastor of Oak Grove; Chester Carlisle, pastor of Mount Zion; Leon Williams from Stonewall, and Grady Crowell, director of missions for Clarke Association, left for revivals in the Steel Valley Baptist Association in Warren, Ohio. These men preached in four churches, April 23-27.

At least seven people prayed to receive Christ related to these churches in revival. This brings to 160 the total number of persons who have prayed to be saved related to the seven years that teams have gone from the Clarke Association to the Steel Valley Baptist Association for revivals.

These revivals, along with some funds in the Clarke budget for Steel Valley, are the two main expressions of a "Linkage Ministry" between the two associations. boowol7

These revivals, along with some funds in the Clarke budget for Steel Valley, are the two main expressions of a "Linkage Ministry" between the two associations. boowol7

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

Paul defends himself before Felix and Festus

By Bert Breland
Acts 24:1-25:12

In the previous lesson we learned that Paul had proved to be more than the Roman commander, Lysias, was able to handle. He therefore sent Paul to Felix, the governor. In our background passage (24:1-9) we discovered that the high priest and others from the council have followed Paul to Caesarea in order to bring charges against him. In order to strengthen their case they had obtained the services of a lawyer named Tertullus. It is likely that Tertullus was a Roman lawyer hired because of his experience in dealing with Roman courts and officials. This seems even more likely as you examine his flowery speech and the way he tried to flatter Felix.

This introductory text serves to lay before us the charges that Paul had against him in this trial, but it also presents an interesting pro-



Breland

BIBLE BOOK

blem: the latter part of verse 6, all of verse 7, and the first part of 8 do not appear in most Greek manuscripts. This passage begins in verse 6 with the words "and would have judged . . ." and concludes in verse 8 with "his accusers to come unto thee:" (KJV).

In the Revised Standard Version and in the New English Version, this passage is completely left out; in the New American Standard, it is put in parentheses. If the longer reading is correct, then Tertullus was also bringing charges against Lysias for interfering with the Jewish trial. He was also appealing to Felix to question Lysias concerning the facts of the case. If the shorter reading is correct, then Tertullus was asking Felix to get Paul to confirm these charges against himself. Tertullus felt that if Paul were given a chance to speak he would begin to preach and hopefully betray his dangerous attitudes. The shorter reading seems to be correct because Felix immediately gave Paul permission to speak.

Three charges had been made against Paul

and he responded to all three. He denied that he was disturbing the peace in Jerusalem. Indeed, he had come to worship and bring alms and offerings. (This may be a reference to the collection that Paul had received from the Gentile churches for the Christians in Jerusalem.) Paul did acknowledge that he was a leader of the sect known as the "Way," but he did not acknowledge that they were trouble makers or that they were hostile towards Judaism. In fact, Paul indicated that Jews within the Way were devout Jews. Concerning the charge of having profaned the temple, Paul argued that this was absurd. He had gone to the temple for purification and there was no trouble. The only trouble and commotion was caused by Jews who came from Asia. Paul indicated to Felix that they were the ones who really should be standing before him.

After having heard the arguments, Felix delayed his decision. On the first count, he was somewhat fearful of the Jews and the trouble that they could cause him. Second, he was in hopes that Paul might offer him a bribe to be released. Felix obviously wasn't convinced that Paul was a dangerous criminal; he afforded

him freedom while he was in his custody.

It is hard to believe that Felix let this simple case drag on for two years, but apparently he had hoped that the Jewish leadership would forget about Paul. It also appears that Felix and his wife had come to like Paul and enjoyed talking with him about matters of faith. However, they didn't like him enough to let him go. When Felix was replaced by Festus he left Paul high and dry in the jail.

In these two years, the Jewish leader apparently had not forgotten Paul. Before Festus had even arrived they had petitioned him to reopen Paul's case. Festus was more than happy to oblige his new subjects, and the case was heard again. When Paul realized that his case was about to take a turn for the worse by being taken back to Jerusalem, he exercised his right as a Roman citizen to appeal to Caesar. It is not clear if Paul really wanted his case to be moved to Rome or if he simply wanted to be sure that it stayed in the Roman rather than Jewish courts. In either event, Paul's opportunity to preach an unhindered gospel would expand.

Breland is pastor, North Greenwood Church, Greenwood.

Others need encouragement to obey God

By Greg Martin
Judges 4:4-8, 14-16

In Charles Swindoll's book, *Strengthening Your Grip* (pp. 48-49), the author tells about a church in Salem, Oregon, that decided to get serious about encouraging its membership. In the hymn racks on each pew are "Encouragement Cards." Worshipers place the name of the recipient and a brief note on one side. On the other side they sign their name. The cards are collected during the offering. The following week the cards are mailed by the church's office personnel to those who need encouragement. The Oregon church's method of encouragement is most definitely an innovative one.

Anyone who has been a Christian very long surely has seen the need for encouragement. It is needed to resist temptation, to continue in Christian growth, and to accept spiritual challenges. In our text we are introduced to a woman who was inspiring and encouraging to the nation of Israel. From Deborah's life we



Martin

LIFE AND WORK

learn that, as believers, we can serve by encouraging others to discover and obey God's will.

Many are surprised to find out that one of the judges of Israel was a woman. Feminists falsely presume that the Bible is a chauvinistic book. Actually, the biblical teachings elevate the role of women in society. They show that women, like men, have a place of service in the Christian church. Deborah's place was one of encouragement. Many men and women would do well to learn from her example. As Barnabas was the New Testament encourager, Deborah was the Old Testament one.

Her task included encouraging Barak to rally 10,000 men from the children of Naphtali and Zebulun to go against Sisera, the captain of the oppressing king of Canaan. Israel had been dominated by King Jabin for 20 years. The nation's suffering was caused by sin (verses 1-2). When the people of God cried out to the Lord, he graciously led Deborah to inspire Barak to bring an end to the oppression.

In verse 6-7 we see that Deborah summoned

Barak to inform him of what God was commanding him to do. From this we can learn that serving God sometimes involves encouraging others to discover what God wants them to do.

Verse 7 also teaches that serving God sometimes involves helping people to understand that God will make it possible for them to accomplish what he calls them to do. Deborah assured Barak that the Lord would grant him victory over Sisera.

Barak was at first unsure about going to war. He insisted that Deborah go with him to Mount Tabor, which was near to the place the battle would be fought (verse 8). In this verse we learn that believers often feel the need for encouragement when they set out to do God's will. This is the reason our Lord did not send the disciples out by themselves. He sent them out two by two (Luke 10:1). Hebrews 10:24-25 explains the Christian's obligation to encourage fellow believers, "And let us consider one another . . . exhorting one another."

Deborah did go to Mount Tabor with Barak and the 10,000 men. At the appropriate time she challenged him to advance on Sisera, reminding him that the Lord had gone ahead of him (verse 14). We can learn from this event that serving God sometimes involves encourag-

ing others to act decisively, with the assurance that God is with them.

When Barak advanced, the Lord routed Sisera and his troops in the direction they should go (verses 15-21). Judges 5:20-21 implies that the Kishon River overflowed and then made it impossible for the 900 iron Canaanite chariots to maneuver in the muddy soil. God had wrought the victory for Israel. It was he who had brought the victory to pass. As a result of his intervention, not one of the army of Sisera escaped.

Our God also grants us victory when we believe him. He accomplishes his purposes as his people act in obedience to him. The Lord is wanting us to serve in his power as we yield to do his will. Serving in his power includes encouraging fellow soldiers of the cross. Perhaps this day you can encourage another Christian by writing a positive note, saying an uplifting word, possessing a positive attitude, making a neglected phone call, noticing a job well done, or observing an admirable character quality.

Who around you needs encouragement? You could be their inspiration.

Martin is pastor, Commission Road Church, Long Beach.

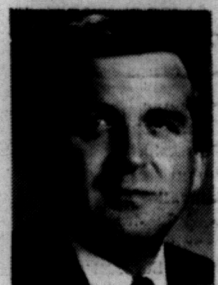
Twelve stones: remembering God's help

By Gary G. Berry
Joshua 4:1-3, 8, 15-24

The monument is long, black, and foreboding. It lists the names of Americans who died or who are yet missing in action from the Vietnam War. Such a sacrifice deserves a memorial. Americans should never forget those who have given their lives in serving this country. They are due our honor and respect.

In a similar way, God's people have the responsibility and privilege of remembering what he has done for them. That privilege includes the sharing of those experiences with others.

When the Israelites had crossed the Jordan River, God commanded Joshua to have 12 stones taken from the river to represent the 12



Berry

UNIFORM

tribes of Israel (vv. 1-3). The emphasis of the command suggests that all of Israel is to participate in this ceremony. Twelve men, one representing each tribe, were to take the stones from the middle of Jordan. The stones were to be taken from the spot where the priests had stood holding the ark.

Doing as Joshua had commanded, the 12 men took the stones and placed them where the people were standing, now on the west side of the Jordan. The priests then exited the river and the waters instantly flowed again (v. 18). This should put to rest the speculation that some natural occurrence had taken place to dam the river. The parting of Jordan's waters, and their return to a normal flow, was clearly a miraculous occurrence.

At Gilgal, the 12 stones taken from the river were used to build a memorial. This memorial was to serve as a reminder to the people of their miraculous crossing of the Jordan (vv. 19-20).

The parents were instructed to tell the story of the crossing to their children (v. 22). They must let their children know that the waters were driven back and Israel crossed on dry ground, even as they had crossed the Red Sea. Each generation was to be reminded of the continuing work of God to bring about the redemption of his people.

Today, many are aware that when Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead, the plan of God for the redemption of man was completed. The final sacrifice for sin was made. Today, the Spirit of God works in the world to convict men of sin, righteousness, and judgment to come, but the plan is complete.

The purpose of telling the story of the cross to each generation was that all people could

know the Lord's might and the people of God could fear him forever (vv. 21-24). God performs his work before all the people. "Fearing the Lord" is not slavish dread, but a recognition of his glory and majesty and the willingness to trust him.

Have you been reminded of what God has done for you? Perhaps you recall a successful recovery from surgery, a miraculous escape from a near fatal accident, or an unexpected check to cover an emergency expense? Above all, God has delivered the Christian from the powerful dominion of sin and made him a new creation in Christ.

Every Christian should be telling others what God has done in his life. When this is done consistently, others will give reverence to God, and many will commit their lives to him. Never stop telling what God has done in your life. If you've never started, there is no better time than right now.

Berry is pastor, Temple, Hattiesburg.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



The Baptist Children's Village

Paul N. Nunnery, Executive Director

P. O. Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060-0027, (601) 922-2242

Accredited by the National Association of Homes for Children
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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

Jan. 16, 1989-

Mar. 9, 1989

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Ann Peebles Caffey
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Nail
Morris Pee
Mrs. June Brooks
Dorothy Peery
Mr. & Mrs. Delane Andrews
& Family
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Mary M. & Charles McPhail
Mr. Bilbo Pennington
Mr. & Mrs. Carroll Bruister
Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Rice
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Shuqualak Baptist Church
Eleanor Phillips
Mrs. Bonnie Cook
Joe Phillips
Mrs. Marie Hall
Mr. Billy F. Wilson
Arthur Frank Pickering
Stanton Baptist Church
Mrs. W. P. Pieri
Mrs. Mahlon Stephenson
Pilkinton
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Stanton Baptist Church
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Winnie Carlisle
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Mrs. Thomas J. Smith
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Ray, Brenda, & Julie Butler
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Mr. William W. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Green
Volunteer Sunday School,
FBC Hazlehurst
Mrs. Leola Wiggs Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Rice

MAKING SURE THE CHILDREN ARE CARED FOR

MIDWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, MERIDIAN — Lauderdale Association, Rev. William Webb, Pastor. The Midway Baptist Church recently sent a check for \$3,500.00 for Village support. This is \$500.00 more than last year. They have a systematic plan of a \$500.00 increase annually. They always send their check during Christian Home Week.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, VERONA — Lee Association, Rev. David Hamilton, Pastor. David asked Kermit McGregor, Director of Public Relations, to preach on Friday evening, Saturday evening and Sunday morning of Christian Home Week and promoted The Village resulting in an offering of \$1,278.00+.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, DURANT — Holmes Association, Rev. Jerry Bishop, Pastor. According to Mrs. Margaret Burrell, Church Secretary, FBC Durant "set aside an amount in our budget this year" for The Village and received an offering on MOTHER'S DAY with an aggregate of \$1,033.00

ENTERPRISE BAPTIST CHURCH, ENTERPRISE — Clarke Association, Rev. Danny Bullock, Pastor. Recently Rev. Jerry Jackson, Associate in Church/Public Relations, was asked to speak on a Sunday evening and Enterprise congregation gave an offering for our ministries of \$330.00.

POCAHONTAS BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON — Hinds/Madison Association, Rev. Dolton Haggan, Pastor. The Pocahontas Baptist Church gives \$60.00 a month for The Village for Endowment, \$60.00 a month for operational ministries and received a \$510.00 love offering on MOTHER'S DAY.

ROSELAND PARK BAPTIST CHURCH, PICAYUNE — Pearl River Association, Dr. James Spencer, Pastor. Pastor Spencer promoted The Village during Christian Home Week with a theme of "30 Pieces of Silver" and according to the church bulletin the total has now reached \$1,335.00.

MADDEN BAPTIST CHURCH, MADDEN — Leake Association, Dr. Burn Page, Pastor. The congregation has placed The Village in their budget on a percentage basis and the church is now one of the leading churches in financial gifts to The Village.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, BYHALIA — Marshall Association, Rev. Kenneth McMillen, Pastor. Executive Director Paul N. Nunnery spoke during the MOTHER'S DAY service, an offering was received to add to consistent gifts from this long time supportive congregation.

SEBASTOPOL BAPTIST CHURCH, SEBASTOPOL — Scott Association, Rev. John Sharp, Pastor. The Sebastopol Baptist Church just mailed a check for \$648.90.

BRADFORD CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH, GORE SPRINGS — Grenada Association, Rev. Everette Martin, Pastor. The Bradford Chapel Baptist Church sent a check for \$1,000.00.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, GULFPORT — Gulf Coast Association, Dr. Dean Register, Pastor. They mailed a check for \$2,235.00.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, VICKSBURG — Warren Association, Rev. Johnny Collins, Pastor. This church sent \$725.00.

We thank all pastors and churches for their gifts. The above are but a few representations of our support.

HAVE YOU MAILED YOUR CHECK?

If not, send today to:

The Baptist Children's Village
Paul N. Nunnery, Executive Director
P. O. Box 27
Clinton, Mississippi 39060-0027

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(To be continued)

Employee of Baptist Book Store shares her memories of Gulfshore

By Catherine McCraw

In thinking back to the beginning of Gulfshore, so many things have happened!

Mrs. O. M. Jones, the manager of the Baptist Book Store when Gulfshore opened in 1960, contacted me about working in the store. We set up the store in a barracks building by the railroad track. Every time the train went by it shook the building and the books would fall, along with novelties, on the floor. The first two summers we had no air-conditioning in the building, so the heat was almost unbearable!

The store was a branch of the Jackson store so Mrs. Jones would send an employee from the store there down to help each week. Some of those were Omera Lynn, Ann Burnside, Kathleen Wright, Gordon Sansing, Copie Myers, and Jean Dawson. After two years I employed local part-time help. Some of these were Gayle Douglas, Carmen Garcia, Elaine Foy, Peggy Ladner, Beverly Shumake, and Barbara Mack.

The books, supplies and gifts were shipped by West Brothers Transport, no UPS service like we have now. We were constantly packing up and shipping, and unpacking for each conference, since storage space was very limited. After the summer conferences were over, everything in the store was packed and shipped back to Jackson.

Where the store was located became a lake when it rained, so that meant you had to pull off your shoes and wade out to your car in water about a foot deep. One summer, almost every Monday afternoon, there would be a thunderstorm and flooding, and each time the lights would go out.

The first two summers R. A. camps were held there. The mosquitoes were so bad that the counselors would line the boys up outside the barracks and sweep them off with brooms before going in for the night!

I remember one afternoon, Paul Jones, a staffer, now deceased, had carried a load of supplies on a dolly

to the children's building. When he came back by the store he stopped and grabbed me and put me on that dolly and went running down the street. I was afraid to jump off, so I just screamed and yelled all the way up to the administration building.

My heart always went out to the children and youth from the Children's Village. They usually came each year for the music weeks. They were so appreciative of the little things you did for them or gave them. Several summers ago, a lady came in the store and asked to see me. She said, "I know you don't remember me, I was at the Children's Village and used to come down here. I just had to let you know that I have become a Christian and you had a great influence on me when I came to camp here." You never know the effect you may have on some one.

On August 17, 1969, Hurricane Camille destroyed the Gulfshore book store completely. All that was found from the store was a hammer.

After rebuilding, we moved into a new store next to the cafeteria. This time the store was a branch of the Baptist Book Store out of New Orleans, La. Those working the first year were myself, Catherine McCraw, Sandra Gray, and Gail Carr. In the fall, Mary Blackstock, came to work, since all of us who worked through the summer taught school. The store has operated all year, when people are at conferences there.

So many hilarious things have happened since reopening. We always try to eat before the classes dismiss. One day we announced that we were closing to go for lunch and would be back in 30 minutes. Since the cafeteria was next door there was no problem to find us. In a few minutes one of the guests came to us and said, "you have a man locked up in the store." He was so busy reading a book he did not hear us leave.

Many romances have begun at Gulfshore and honeymoons have been spent there. Two senior adult couples

spent their honeymoon there the same week. One couple comes back each year to the senior adult weeks.

We get so amused at what the children think about the coast. Some will say, "I didn't know it rained here. I sure wanted to go swimming in the ocean."

One afternoon when the weather was stormy there was a water spout out in the bay. One of the staffers came running into the store, scared to death, saying "Did you see that out there?" We said, "No, what?" He said, "That hurricane." We assured him that was not a hurricane, only a water spout.

Two of the staffers decided one night after they got off from working in the snack bar to get on the freight train that had stopped on the side track by Gulfshore, and ride over to Bay St. Louis and walk back. They misjudged the direction the train was going, so instead of going west, they went east. They thought, "Well, we will get off in Long Beach," but it did not stop or slow down, nor did it slow down or stop in Gulfport, Biloxi, or Pascagoula. When they got to Mobile, they knew they could not go under the tunnel on a box car, so they had to jump off. They walked to a Waffle House and called the Gulfshore house dad to come for them. They had no change to make a phone call and the Waffle House would not give them any. One of them had his sister's calling card number and used it to make the call. You can imagine the teasing they received from everyone the next day.

Some of the other people that have worked with Mary Blackstock and me have been, Peggy Tedford, Marsha Blackstock, Linda Wilbourn, Lisa LaFontaine, Mary Anne Blanchette, and Lisa Shrutta.

Working at Gulfshore has been a wonderful experience for me through the years. The responses that have been made to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The reactions, the joy, the glow on the faces and the excitement shown by each individual that

Devotional

Is the seed yet in the barn?

By Billy G. Johnson
Haggai 2:19

Every person who is even mildly acquainted with agriculture knows that there is a time for planting seed and a time when the seed is stored either for food purposes or for future planting. The tenor of the prophet Haggai's question suggests that the planting season is rapidly coming to a close and that the seed should have already been planted in the soil. In Haggai's case, he was saying that the time for the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem was long overdue. The job should have already been done.



Johnson

Our responsibility today is building the body of Christ, the church, through the planting of the gospel seed. The time when the seed is in the barn should be a time of preparation for the sower and the soil. The sower of the gospel seed is prepared through the power of the Holy Spirit in his life as he yields himself to the Spirit's leadership. The soil is prepared for receiving the gospel seed through cultivation by the sower and through conviction by the Holy Spirit.

There comes a time when the seed must be sown if a good harvest is to be expected. The Bible teaches that the sower has the responsibility of sowing the seed. Sowing the gospel seed is every Christian's job! We might give excuse for not doing so, but, ultimately, we must admit that it is our task. The assurance is given us that, if we sow the seed, the harvest will come. "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" (Psalms 126:6).

It's time the seed were out of the barn and in the ground!

Johnson is pastor, Dixie Church, Hattiesburg.

had the experience of a new birth, or a new commitment or a decision to full-time Christian service has been well worth all the time and money spent. It has been a joy to help those select books and materials to use in their new walk. So many of these have returned to Gulfshore with their families to share with them the experiences they had had.

Mary and I have made many friends from all over the state through the years. We always look forward each year to the reunion with our new Christian friends when they come back.

The book store now is back under the store from Jackson. We have moved into the new area in the new wing. We thank God for being able to minister and help people as they come to Gulfshore.

Mrs. McCraw lives at 217 Klondyke Road, Long Beach, MS 39560.

Rushdie's wife follows in his footsteps

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP) — Author Marianne Wiggins has learned a lesson from her husband Salman Rushdie: offending a major religious group can be good for book sales. But Wiggins is playing it safer than her husband by going after a religious group less likely to issue a death threat: Christians.

Wiggins' fourth novel, *John Dollar*, is an indictment of Western democracy. In it, she proposes to expose what she considers to be the emptiness at the heart of Christianity, on which Western culture is founded. "I am an opponent of religion," she said. "I wanted to show how powerful it is and how it needs to be questioned."

... the whole glory of writing lies in the fact that it forces us out of ourselves and into the lives of others. — Sherwood Anderson

SCRAPBOOK

Peter's song

(Acts 3)

Silver and gold have I none,
But such as I have, I give.
In the name of Jesus, the Father's Son,
Rise up, be healed, and live.

Lame for life, but now made whole,
This man stood up and walked
Into the temple with joyful soul
To give praise while people talked.

Ye men, why marvel ye at this?
Or why look ye on us
As if it were our own holiness?
God's Son, Jesus Christ, healed thus.

Faith in his name made this man strong;
Yea, faith and power the same;
Perfect soundness now is his song;
The man now healed was lame.

Repent ye, therefore, and be saved
That your sins will be blotted out;
God, the Father, his son gave
to bless you without a doubt.

So turn ye away, every one of you,
From your iniquities to the Lord;
A refreshing in his presence, if you do,
Will come, and grace he will afford.

—Sarah Peugh
Aberdeen

A silent cry

The water is dirty, the air turns black.
What God created may never come back.

Man's taken for granted what God has made.
Our love for the land is fading away.

We tear down the forest, we strip the land.
Saying it's for progress again and again.

Suffering most from this progress and wealth:
The deer, bear, swan, and the elk.

A silent cry echoes their fears.
We ignore them, covering our ears.

We hide from the truth and fact:
We take from the land, never giving back.

To save the land, we all must try.
When the land is gone, we will die.

Let's clear up the air, the rivers, and lakes.
Do it now before it's too late.

Reed Walters Age 19
Bethlehem Church, Laurel

Baptist Record

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June 1, 1989

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